CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A tear bar for assisting the separation of a piece of media from a strip of media, the strip of media having a surface, a first side, a second side, and a center portion, the tear bar comprising:

   (A) a first side portion, the first side portion being adapted to abut the surface of the strip of media adjacent to the first side of the strip of media and apply resistance on the strip of media when a longitudinal force is applied to the strip of media, wherein the first side portion comprises a tapered surface, wherein the height of the tear bar decreases as the tear bar is traversed in the direction from the first edge of the strip of media towards the center portion of the strip of media; and

   (B) a second side portion, the second side portion being adapted to abut the surface of the strip of media adjacent to the second side of the strip of media and apply resistance on the strip of media when a longitudinal force is applied to the strip of media.

2. The tear bar of claim 1 wherein the second side portion comprises a tapered surface, wherein the height of the tear bar decreases as the tear bar is traversed in the direction from the second edge of the strip of media towards the center of the strip of media.

3. The tear bar of claim 1 wherein at least one of the first or second side portions comprises a roughened surface.

4. The tear bar of claim 1 further comprising a center portion between the first and second side portions, the center portion being adapted to abut the surface of the strip of vouchers in the center portion of the of the strip of vouchers and apply resistance on the strip of vouchers when a longitudinal force is applied to the strip of vouchers.

5. The tear bar of claim 4 wherein the center portion comprises a roughened surface.

6. The tear bar of claim 1 wherein the tear bar is formed from an integrally formed shaft.

7. The tear bar of claim 1 wherein the tear bar comprises a substantially circular lateral cross-section.

8. The tear bar of claim 1 wherein the tear bar comprises a substantially semi-circular lateral cross-section.

9
~~10~~. A tear bar system comprising:

(A) a strip of media, the media comprising:

(a) a surface,

(b) a first side;

(c) second side;

(d) a center portion between the first and second side; and

(e) a plurality of perforations, the perforations being separated by a plurality of bridges of connecting material;

(B) a tear bar, the tear bar comprising:

(a) a first side portion, the first side portion being adapted to abut the surface of the media in close relative proximity to a first bridge of connecting material and apply resistance on the media when a longitudinal force is applied to the media, wherein the first side portion comprises a tapered surface, wherein the height of the tear bar decreases as the tear bar is traversed in the direction from the first side of the strip of media towards the center portion of the strip of media; and

(b) a second side portion, the second side portion being adapted to abut the surface of the media in close relative proximity to a second bridge of connecting material and apply resistance on the media when a longitudinal force is applied to the media.

10 9
~~11~~. The tear bar system of claim ~~10~~ wherein the second side portion comprises a tapered surface, wherein the height of the tear bar decreases as the tear bar is traversed in the

direction from the second edge of the strip of media towards the center of the strip of media.

11
12. The tear bar system of claim 10 wherein the strip of media further comprises a third bridge of connecting material between the first and second bridges of connecting material, wherein the tear bar further comprises a center portion between the first and second side portions, the center portion of the tear bar being adapted to abut the surface of the media in close relative proximity to the third bridge of connecting material and apply resistance on the media when a longitudinal force is applied to the media.

12
13. The tear bar system of claim 12 wherein the first bridge of connecting material is positioned in close relative proximity to the first side of the strip of media, the second bridge of connecting material is positioned in close relative proximity to the second side of the strip of media, and the third bridge of connecting material is positioned in close relative proximity to the center portion of the strip of media.

13
14. The tear bar system of claim 10 wherein the media further comprises at least nine bridges of connecting material, wherein three of the bridges of connecting material are positioned in close relative proximity to the first side of the strip of media, three bridges of connecting material are positioned in close relative proximity to the second side of the strip of media, and three bridges of connecting material are positioned in the center portion of the strip of media.

~~15.~~ 14. The tear bar system of claim 14 the tear bar further comprising a center portion between the first and second side portions, the center portion of the tear bar being adapted to abut the surface of the media in close relative proximity to the three bridges of connecting material in the center portion of the strip of media and apply resistance on the media when a longitudinal force is applied to the media.

~~16.~~ 15. The tear bar system of claim 10 wherein the plurality of perforations are arranged substantially in a line.

~~17.~~ 16. The tear bar system of claim 10 wherein the media comprises corner treatments adjacent to the plurality of perforations.

17

20. A method of separating a piece of media from a strip of media, the method comprising the following steps:

(A) providing a strip of media, the media comprising:

(a) a surface;

(b) a first side;

(c) a second side;

(d) a center portion; and

(e) an end portion;

(B) providing a tear bar, the tear bar comprising:

(a) a first side portion, the first side portion being adapted to abut the surface of the media and apply resistance on the media when a longitudinal force is applied to the media, wherein the first side portion comprises a tapered surface, wherein the height of the tear bar decreases as the tear bar is traversed in the direction from the first edge of the strip of media towards the center portion of the strip of media; and

(b) a second side portion, the second side portion being adapted to abut the surface of the media and apply resistance on the media when a longitudinal force is applied to the media;

(C) positioning the strip of media, wherein the first side is positioned in close relative proximity to the first side portion and the second side is positioned in close relative proximity to the second side portion; and

(D) applying a longitudinal force to the end portion of the strip of media, wherein the first side portion and the second side portion abut the surface of the strip of media and resist the longitudinal movement of the strip of media, wherein a strain is created in the strip of media.

18
21. The method of claim 20 wherein the strip of media further comprises a plurality of perforations, the perforations being separated by at least a plurality of bridges of connecting material, wherein the first side portion is adapted to abut the surface of the strip of media in close relative proximity to a first bridge of connecting material.

19
22. The method of claim 21 wherein the second side portion is adapted to abut the surface of the strip of media in close relative proximity to a second bride of connecting material.

20
23. The method of claim 20 wherein the second side portion comprises a tapered surface, wherein the height of the tear bar decreases as the tear bar is traversed in the direction from the second edge of the strip of media towards the center of the strip of media.

21
24. The method of claim 20 wherein the tear bar further comprises a center portion between the first and second side portions, the center portion being adapted to abut the surface of the strip of vouchers in the center portion of the of the strip of vouchers and apply resistance on the strip of vouchers when a longitudinal force is applied to the strip of vouchers.